

CANADIAN TUG M. F. PARSONS.

---

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

A COPY OF A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND LABOR SUBMITTING AN ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION FOR REFUNDING THE AMOUNT OF THE FINE LEVIED ON THE CANADIAN TUG M. F. PARSONS.

---

JANUARY 18, 1904.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

---

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, January 16, 1904.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, copy of a communication from the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, of the 15th instant, recommending the insertion in the deficiency bill of an item of appropriation as follows:

To refund to the collector of customs at Port Huron, Mich., the sum of \$50, received by him as a fine on the Canadian tug *M. F. Parsons*, and deposited by him to the credit of the United States Treasurer July 30, 1903, for repayment by him to the owner or owners of the tug or to the person or persons found by the collector to be entitled to receive the amount.

Respectfully,

L. M. SHAW,  
*Secretary.*

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

---

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, January 15, 1904.*

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to a letter, dated September 12, 1903, from this Department to the Secretary of State, as follows:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, inclosing copy of a personal note from the British chargé d'affaires ad interim, in

regard to the penalty imposed on the Canadian tug *M. F. Parsons* by the collector of customs at Port Huron, Mich., for arriving at Marine City, Mich., June 17, 1903, from Sarnia, without proper papers.

The penalty incurred was mitigated by the Treasury Department on June 30 to \$50. This Department has given further consideration to the subject.

In view of the statements in your letter of the provisions of the act of May 24, 1890, and of Mr. Raike's statement that under similar circumstances no fine would have been imposed upon an American vessel in a Canadian port, the Department has concluded to remit the penalty altogether. Instructions to that effect have to-day been given to the collector at Port Huron.

The mitigated penalty of \$50 has, however, been covered into the Treasury, and it will require an act of Congress to return it to the parties concerned. This Department will recommend the necessary legislation.

The Secretary of State, on the 16th instant, inquires for the British ambassador what further action has been taken in the matter, and requests impliedly that a recommendation shall be made to Congress for the return of the money.

I recommend, under all the circumstances, that measures be taken for the insertion in the next deficiency bill of an item for the refund to the collector of customs at Port Huron, Mich., of the sum of \$50, received by him as a fine on the Canadian tug *M. F. Parsons* and deposited by him to the credit of the United States Treasurer, July 30, 1903, for repayment by him to the owner or owners of the tug or to the person or persons found by the collector to be entitled to receive the amount.

Respectfully,

GEO. B. CORTELYOU,  
*Secretary.*

The SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,  
*Washington, D. C.*

O